

Dear Commissioners and Staff Members,

I am strongly against allowing broadband transmissions on power lines as proposed.

1. Tests have shown interference in the HF band can be severe.
2. I have spoken to people abroad who have experienced strong HF and other interference from this mode of transmission.
3. It should be a strategic goal for national security to minimize transmission interference across the HF spectrum, not increase it.
4. If there is strong interference it will have catastrophic effects on emergency or rescue operations and no amount of antenna orientation, noise filtering or digital processing can eliminate it.
5. There has to be a strong and compelling national interest to destroy or impair the utility of a broad spectrum of critical frequencies and this is just not compelling.
6. Interference from power lines today, just from leakage at 60 Hertz makes AM reception difficult which a quick drive around our area would demonstrate. The utilities in my area are not addressing the current issues so this is not a user class which can be counted on to exercise appropriate care or diligence in preventing future interference.
7. Broadband over coaxial cable in my area causes significant interference so powerline transmission can only be labelled as a bizarre and much more highly efficient interference generator.
8. I cannot opt to block such interference from my home, my street or my neighborhood. It will permeate everywhere.
9. I ask the Commission to either deny the application outright or to send the proposal back to the utilities and tell them to propose a method of transmission that does not add to the interference burden and pollution on critical frequencies we already face.
10. I am an active amateur radio operator (K1BRF) who spends a great deal of time on HF and other frequencies as part of my heavy service to the emergency communications community. I have sufficient first-hand practical field experience (including extensive 9/11 duty at the WTC) to state that this new burden as described is a critical issue for HF communications during emergencies. It is exactly the opposite of what we should be doing -- reducing interference pollution.
11. Would it be a potential moneymaker for utilities? Possibly, if they have sufficient capital to install and maintain their plant. But the fact they can think of a way to possibly make money in an speculative adjunct to their main business in which they have no experience and a bad track record of addressing interference issues in general is not sufficient reason to allow this disastrous and irreversible move at such a critical time.
12. Please do not allow this proposal.

Very sincerely,

Brian R. Fernandez